

***Tinea despecta* Meyrick, a hitherto unrecorded Case-moth
in Hawaii (Lepidoptera: Tineidae)**

By O. H. SWEZEY

EXPERIMENT STATION, H.S.P.A., HONOLULU

On March 20, 1950, Wm. B. Case brought in some larvae in flat brown cases, which were found abundant in fibrous debris in a clothes closet of a residence on Mt. Tantalus, Oahu. These larval cases were very similar to those of *Tineola uterella* Walsm. When moths issued later, they were found to be of a different species. On examination of the wing venation, this was found to differ from that of *Tineola*. It also differed from that of *Tinea*, and I failed to find among the numerous related genera described by Meyrick, any which had description of venation to agree with this strange species. The distinct difference was that in the hindwings veins 5 and 6 are coincident, a character not present in the description of the other tineid genera.

Being thus frustrated in the determination of this moth, I sent specimens to E. C. Zimmerman who was working on Hawaiian moths in the collections at the British Museum, where are deposited the thousands of species of Microlepidoptera described by Meyrick, on a chance that comparisons would reveal the identity of this moth. Mr. Zimmerman handed these specimens to Dr. J. D. Bradley who works on Lepidoptera at the Museum, and he readily determined them as *Tinea despecta* Meyrick (Exotic Microlepidoptera, 2:214, 1919). In the description, Meyrick remarks: "The only species of *Tinea* known to me in which 5 and 6 of hindwings are normally coincident." The original description is on specimens from British Guiana, Colombia and Ecuador. The British Museum has also specimens from Peru, Bermuda, Queensland, and Malaya.

In the H.S.P.A. collection are specimens which had been determined as *Tinea fuscipunctella* Haworth (?), which are now correctly identified. They were collected as follows: Honolulu, 1909 (Perkins); Kilauea, Hawaii, 1917 (Swezey); Lihue Hotel, Kauai, 1928 (Swezey); Honolulu, in laboratory, 1933 (Swezey); Aiea, Oahu, in light trap, 1944; Naval Airport, Honolulu, in light trap, 1944; Waipio, Oahu, in light trap, 1946; Manoa Valley, Oahu, on screen, 1947 (Swezey). Hence, it has been here for some time, and is widely spread, but its identity and habits were not known until now.

The brown larval cases are not so bulging in the middle area as are those of *Tineola uterella*, but yet are wide enough to allow the larva to turn around so that its head may protrude at either end, the same as the larva of *uterella* does. The larva is similar to *uterella*, but the markings on the thoracic segments are not quite the same. Pupation takes place

within the case which serves as its cocoon. When the moth issues the pupa is extruded.

A parasite issued from one of the larval cases. It was *Apanteles carpatus* (Say), the species which has commonly been reared from the larval cases of *Tineola uterella*.